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Number 36

CHRISTIAN AS

A Workingman

called Jesus the "Carpenter
zareth," and all who knew Him
ve read of Him admit that His
must have been thorough. His
father, Joseph, was a carpen-
efore Him, and we read that
was subject to His parents, so
He must have submitted to
ng in woodwork in His fath-
op.

far as we can ascertain by
ng between the lines of the
el record, Jesus must have re-
ed at the carpenter's bench.
He was thirty years of age,
He suddenly obeyed the God-
urge to proclaim Himself as
Son of Man," and began His
years' ministry.

er since that day, men have
at the plough or the anvil
e bench with a feeling of pride
they were following the pat-
of One who could have lived
yal palaces if He so desired,
ho chose to be born in a stable
ive among working folk—the
nts of Galilee—whose hands
as work-hardened as theirs.
ristians have always believed
ting and holding a job. They
n their Bible, "If a man does
ork, neither shall he eat," and
see other references in the
to the beauty of toil and the
of idleness. They carry their
on into their work, for they
that God abhors faulty work-
up, laziness, or a deliberately-
aled flaw. They are honest
ncere, so that they work just

as hard when the boss is around
as when he is in another part of
the factory or office.

They believe in giving the boss
full value for the wages he gives
them on Friday night, but they
have been quick to come to the
defence of a mate whom they feel
has been unfairly treated. They
support strikes when they feel they
are the only means of obtaining fair
conditions, but they never resort to
violence—either in language or ac-
tion—because they know it is out
of keeping with the spirit of the
lowly Nazarene Carpenter.

Many outstanding Christians are
members—or even officials—of un-
ions, but they are not a party to
those phases of unionism which
have brought the movement—in
some places—into disrepute. Such
tactics as ganging up on a man who
refuses to join the union, or deliber-
ately damaging property during a
wage dispute, or aiding and abetting
an official who is known or sus-
pected of dishonest and wrong
methods, even if opposing him
means being penalized, are not tol-
erated by the true Christian work-
er.

There is much condemnation of
the strike these days, and what
some folk call the "insatiable de-
mand for ever higher wages," but
while unreasonable demands are to
be deplored, everyone admits that
a man must have a living wage in
these days of skyrocketing prices.

So many people forget the plight
of the workingman in the days gone
by (and still extant in unenlighten-
ed countries), when he "had to take
it" however cruelly he was treated;
when he had no redress, and when
it was illegal to strike. Men were
deported in those days for standing
up for their rights, but gradually
the employers were led to see that
if they did not treat their workers
fairly, they and their business would
suffer for it.

Thus the unions came into being.
Some say they may have replaced
the "boss" in tyranny, and some have
unquestionably been unwisely led.
But most of the unions are well-
organized, fair and just. They favor
negotiation, and strive to keep
their demands reasonable. These
bodies have helped to make the na-
tion prosperous, and to give the
laboring man a chance to get his
own house and car, and to educate
his children.

The Christian toiler will be proud
of his job and the work he turns
out, whether it be turning a straight
furrow or fitting a part in a pro-
duction line. He is reliable, even-
tempered, considerate of his mates,
and strictly honest with his time
and his employer's goods.

On this Labor Day anniversary,
he is true to the spirit of the words
of Paul to his youthful assistant,
Timothy: "Concentrate on being a
workman with nothing to be asham-
ed of, one who knows how to use
the Word of Truth to the best ad-
vantage" (Phillips Translation)—a
true picture of the Christian toiler,
who is not afraid to let his light
shine, and to quote Scripture in
guiding his teammates in some labor
dispute, or in some other soul need.

—War Cry—Toronto

News and Notes

A FRIEND OF OUR CHURCH

P. Poulsen celebrates his Seventieth birthday. Before World War II, P. Poulsen of Denmark visited the United States and Canada twice. He was interested in the Danish migration to Canada and also in Lutheran churches of Danish background. He has kept up with the development, first as Y.M.C.A. immigration secretary and later as a member of the board of Danish Church Abroad. He is one of the best friends our church has in Denmark.

He was an ardent youth worker, and he edited the Young People's Paper of Denmark, 1934-46. Since 1936 he has been manager of De Unges Forlag, a large book publishing house, which has published many fine books. His birthday was August 21, and his friends in the United States and Canada congratulate P. Poulsen, wishing him many happy returns of the day.

The Rev. Lyle Kohler and family sailed for Sudan on August 22. Their address will be S.U.M., Box 19, Numan, via Jos, N. Nigeria, West Africa.

Pastor Robert Thoms, who the past two years has been military chaplain, has accepted a call to the congregation at Trufant, Mich. where he was installed August 24.

Pastor Vilhelm Beck of Montreal has resigned as of Nov. 1. He wishes to retire.

Pastor Harold C. Jorgensen of Blair, Nebraska, has resigned his charge as pastor of First Lutheran Church.

WANTED

BY A MISSION CONGREGATION

Additional Junior Hymnals are needed by the Sunday School of the UELC's newest mission congregation, St. Andrew of Whittier, California. If your congregation is replacing present copies of the Junior Hymnal, will you consider letting St. Andrew have the older ones. We would be happy to pay shipping costs or postage.

—Richard Andersen

ILLINOIS DISTRICT W.M.S.

The annual business meeting of the Illinois District W.M.S. will be held in conjunction with the Illinois District Convention at First Trinity Lu-

theran Church, Indianapolis, Indiana.

The preliminary business session will be Friday, September 19, at 9:30 A.M. The annual meeting will be at 2:00 P.M.

The annual banquet will be Friday evening followed by the Worship Service sponsored by the W.M.S. at 8:00 P.M.

All societies are urged to send a delegate for each twenty-five (25) members or fraction thereof.

Mrs. Ray Groh, Secretary
Illinois District W.M.S.

CALIFORNIA LUTHERAN COLLEGE

Thousand Oaks—The firm of Daniel, Mann, Johnson and Mendenhall of Los Angeles has been named the architects and engineers for the new Lutheran four-year liberal arts college being constructed in the Conejo Valley near Thousand Oaks, California. Dr. Orville Dahl, president of the California Lutheran Educational Foundation, who is in charge of developing and planning the new institution of higher education, disclosed that this firm had been selected by the Board of Governors of the Foundation.

The architects will proceed immediately with the master plan of the college which will project the plans of the Foundation over a fifteen or twenty year period. The preliminary master plan will be reviewed with the Board of Governors when it meets in November.

The schedule now calls for a selected number of units in the master plan to be designed during 1959 with 1960 and the first half of 1961 designated for construction. The tentative target date has been set for September 1961 for the opening of the new college.

It is expected that the design will be contemporary and functional with an emphasis upon architectural forms which will complement the varied topography of the Conejo Valley which surrounds the two hundred and six acre campus. Dr. Dahl also announced that one of the partners in the architectural firm, Mr. Arthur Mann, will be the project architect for the master plan and buildings.

Pastor K. R. Jensen, Viborg, S. Dak., has accepted the call to be manager of the Old People's Home, Minden, Nebr. He expects to take over the management Dec. 1.

BOOK REVIEW

All books reviewed may be purchased from Lutheran Publishing House, Blair, Nebraska.

Studies in Genesis

By Daniel T. Niles, The Westminster Press, 108 pages, \$2.50.

This is one of those delightful books that make your life richer and makes the Word of God become a living reality. The author is a well known Christian leader of India. He leads the reader into the Book of Genesis in a marvelous way. You learn God's Intention and Man's Rebellion.

Men of Tomorrow

Stories from the Bible for Young Men. Today, Westminster Press, 108 pages, \$3.00.

The author of this book is a native of Estonia, who got to Sweden when Russia attacked the country. He was as a Baptist pastor in the United States. The book has 19 chapters centered about a Bible Character. It speaks to men and he speaks to men today.

This Way to Happiness

By Clyde M. Narramore, Zondervan Publ. House, 183 pages, \$2.50.

Psychology for Living is the title of this book. In ten chapters the author tells his readers in simple language what real happiness is. Sometimes he seems almost too simple but perhaps he is not too simple at all. Most people prefer books that are easily read. This is one of the books that has lots of good advice.

GUYER AND HANSEN

LOANS

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THE ANSGAR LUTHERAN, Official Organ of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church, published weekly by Lutheran Publishing House, Blair, Nebr.

Much of our news is received from Religious News Service, and the News Bureau of the National Lutheran Council.

JOHN M. JENSEN, Editor
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Otto H. Stave, Business Manager. Subscription price: United States and Canada, \$3.00 per year in advance; foreign countries, \$4.00. All communications that concern the Editorial Department, news items and books to be reviewed should be sent to the editor at Spencer, Iowa. Everything pertaining to the Youth Department should be sent to Rev. John W. Nielsen, 316 N. Plum St., Northfield, Minn. A special rate of \$2.00 per year is offered Bible classes and organizations of the church when ten or more copies are sent to one address, and one year if the congregation has The Ansgar Lutheran in every home—Church Paper in Every Home Plan. Subscriptions, remittances, address, advertisements and all communications pertaining to the Business Department should be sent to the Lutheran Publishing House, Blair, Nebr. When CHANGE OF ADDRESS is desired give old as well as new address. Entered as second class matter, December 1, 1879.

Editorials and Comments

ABOUT YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK

The Youth Director, the Rev. George J. Robertson has an article on page 7, in which he presents some of his objections to our editorial July 28. Let us first say that we are very pleased that we have caused some discussion about a very vital subject. We were happy to read the article week by the Youth Editor, the Rev. John W. Nielsen. We are sorry that a few readers think we are negative. We have received ten reactions to our editorial. Seven agreed with us, three disagreed. Pastor Robertson is one of the three.

He goes without saying that we do not want to be negative to anything pertaining to the Lord's work. We simply want to discuss it. We have talked to many pastors and church leaders and also parents. They all seem to think that youth work is difficult.

Our statements about maturity are not negative. They may be debatable, but not negative. We believe educators and observers of our present day culture agree with us. We do not believe in child marriages. We do not believe in child preachers. Why, because it is not normal. A high school patrol officer lecturing to a men's group not long ago said that it would be well that the age should be 18 before a young person should receive a license to drive an automobile. It would—he thought—eliminate much bad driving. Immorality would be reduced, and so would the number of unmarried mothers. These are some of the problems we face in young people's work.

There have been three periods of youth work the past years. During the first period the pastor or the leader was almost the sole speaker or participant. During the second period there was an even balance. The leader and the teenager shared in the program. No doubt that was a very happy situation. But after World War II the tendency has been to increase the participation on the part of young people, even though the age of the young people attending decreased.

Our reference to the youth programs July 28, may be misunderstood. We regret that we did not express ourselves as clearly as we should. We simply thought, because youth work is so important, that some courageous people might be more original than what is found in the suggestions that come to us via the leadership training schools and the helps sent us in the form of programs.

Let it be said also that we are not advocating a return to the old. Rather the opposite. We recognize that youth work is explosive and creative. Youth looks forward. Christianity is also explosive, dynamic and creative. It is a power of God. This power must be led into these young lives. It cannot be done in a stereotyped manner. If ever Christianity's originality is needed, it is when we deal with young people.

This was what we had in mind in our editorial July 28. The program helps are the vogue of the day. They flourish in the "How to do it" books, or the do it yourself pamphlets. Every organization gets them. But they do not necessarily insure a good program. You do not just open a book, and presto, there is a good program.

In conclusion we also want to say that we are sure the Youth Director is a conscientious and hard working man. We thought we might be helpful in raising a few questions that might make us do better youth work.

ON THE WAY

When we came home from 16 fine days in Canada we were happy to find some new books on our desk. We have read Olive Wyon's "On The Way" (Westminster Press, 1957, pages \$2.50).

The author reflects on the Christian life. In our busy

time it is well to sit down and think and pray. And that is just exactly what the author wants us to do. The first part of the book describes the way of life with its dangers and possibilities. The last half describes this life as The Way of Prayer. This part we find extremely helpful. Are we wrong if we say that the quiet life of meditation is rare in our day. We may find that some old Grandparents take time to meditate, but the modern life is not very helpful in this respect.

Jesus taught his disciples to pray. How can we teach our people and ourselves to pray? The Bible is full of examples of men and women praying. I recently read the story of the Christian German prisoner of war who was in a Russian prison camp over three years. He prayed and he lived close to God. Prayer is to live close to God. These simple well known lines tell the story:

"And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'"

And he replied: 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.' (M. Louise Haskins)."

This is prayer, putting our hand into the hand of God and walking with him. This is being close to God.

6 LUTHERAN PASTORS OPPOSE VIRGINIA SEGREGATION STAND

Six Lutheran pastors of four synods joined with 43 other clergymen of the Falls Church, Va. area in a public statement which declared that "enforced segregation in our schools on the basis of race is contrary to the will of God."

The clergymen stressed their clear opposition to any attempts by Virginia segregationists to evade the Supreme Court decision ordering integration in the schools "including use of church facilities as a substitute for the public school system."

Signers included three pastors of the American Lutheran Church—the Rev. John Schramm of Hope church, Annandale, Va., the Rev. Edward F. Yost of Holy Trinity, Falls Church, Va., and the Rev. Frank R. Lampe, of Emmanuel, Vienna, Va.

Also, the Rev. Duane H. Carlson of St. Mark's, Springfield, Va., of the Augustana Lutheran Church; the Rev. H. Alvin Kuhn of Redeemer, McLean, Va., of the United Lutheran Church in America, and the Rev. Paul Meyer of St. John's, Franconia, Va., of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Other signers included five Roman Catholic priests, 17 Methodists, 7 Presbyterians, 7 Baptists, 3 Congregational Christians and 4 Episcopalians.

The statement was issued as the deadline neared for admission of Negro students in previously white schools, pursuant to a Federal district court order.

Governor J. Lindsay Almond has said that he will close public schools if this happens. Gov. Almond is a member of the Virginia Synod of the ULCA.

Segregationists are making plans for a "private school system" which would be set up along segregated lines, using churches, lodge halls, and other facilities for classes.

In their statement, the clergymen asserted that "it is inconsistent to talk to the state about its duty of upholding 'the law of the land' if we do not confront ourselves and our people with the challenge to surrender to a higher authority, the law and will of God."

"Enforced segregation not only defies the basic law of the land, but more importantly contradicts the very Gospel which we are called to preach," they said.

"We Christian ministers, in order to perform our tasks as proclaimers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, wish to make common witness to that urgent problem which involves fellow citizens and fellow Christians.

(Continued on Page 15)

Church News from here and there

STRESS LAYMEN'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHURCH'S MINISTRY TO WORLD

NYBORGSTRAND, Denmark—Laymen as well as clergymen are responsible for the ministry of the Church to the world, it was agreed by delegates to a meeting here sponsored by the World Council of Churches' Department of the Laity.

Conferees, who came from 14 countries, said that "many gifts of the Holy Spirit" such as teaching, evangelism, pastoral care and healing are not restricted to ordained ministers.

During the four-day meeting, lay leaders and theologians participated in panel discussions on "Ministry of the Church—Whole Responsibility."

One of the panels concluded that a good deal of the "normal" western pattern of congregational life depends on the local church being able to afford a full-time clergyman. It was pointed out, however, that in Asian and Latin American countries it may often be necessary or advisable to have a larger number of small congregations without full-time pastors, rather than limit church extension to areas able to support a western type professional ministry.

A panel on evangelism declared that the Church must recognize the "gifts" of a man called by God to be an evangelist, whether he is ordained or a layman, and must keep him "rooted in its life and prayers."

Following discussion on mass evangelism, panelists concluded that despite its real possibilities, it is capable of solving only a fraction of the needs of men and women today.

They emphasized that lay men and women evangelists can be most effective if they work as small informal groups or cells offering genuine friendship to people instead of trying to gain "outsiders" for Christ.

Establishment of such groups and their relationship with churches and clergymen was considered by the panelists. European speakers stressed the difficulties of linking the groups with "dead" local churches or "hostile" ministers; while some American delegates insisted that since their church organization was more flexible and friendly they saw little need, and "very great danger," in setting up pioneer groups more or less unconnected with church bodies.

CANON GREEN GLOOMY ABOUT CHURCH'S FUTURE

SYDNEY, Australia—Canon Bryan Green, English evangelist, predicted here that the next 40 to 50 years will be of "almost unrelieved blackness" for the Christian Church.

He told 100 Anglican clergymen that "I really feel we are going to move into a dark age for civilization. The only real light for Christians is faith in the second coming of Christ."

Communism, scientific humanism and the increased missionary zeal of other religions are forces combining to lessen the influence of Christianity, he said.

In Australia for a series of addresses, Canon Green said that "atheists have made hay of Christians on television sessions in England in front of millions of viewers," and that Christianity had failed to reach the masses.

He urged Australian clergymen to modernize their preaching and to become "properly trained" to use the "great boon" of television.

"MIGRANT WORKERS ARE PEOPLE, TOO"

So says the N. Y. Herald-Tribune in an editorial on a recent report of the National Association for the Ad-

vancement of Colored People, lighting the plight of New York migratory farm workers. After investigating labor camps in six upstate counties, the NAACP charges "with some rare exceptions, migratory farm workers in New York state the victims of a vicious system of economic exploitation." Both the NAACP and the Herald-Tribune call for more vigorous enforcement of laws regulating this labor.

The NAACP report charges that the State Health Department has issued licenses to camps described by investigators as "utterly unfit for human beings." About one camp "The majority of workers receive or \$2 at the end of each week's work. When one protested, 'she was informed that she owed \$15 for transportation from Florida plus \$11 a week for 'room rent,' and additional unspecified amounts for food and clothing."

Trends and facts about migration and efforts to help them, compiled in the annual nationwide Migrant Worker Survey were announced by Edith Lowry, national director of the ministry for the National Council of Churches. They reveal among other things that:

1. Governments — federal and state — are pressing for action on housing.

(Continued on page 5)

The Wrestler

By S. T. Eward

THE NEIGHBORS WOULD NOT HAVE KNOWN

The pastor's telephone rang. The caller asked:

"What do we have to do to become members of your congregation?"

The pastor explained that persons previously baptized but not confirmed received instruction and then were confirmed, and that persons not baptized likewise received instruction and became members through the rite of baptism.

The husband of the family calling was a former Roman Catholic and the wife a Baptist. They were properly instructed and received into the membership. A year or two later a child was born to them and arrangements were being made for baptism. The sponsors chosen were neighbors who were members of another Lutheran Church.

The pastor asked the parents seeking baptism of their child if they had ever discussed religion with the neighbors who were to be sponsors. The answer was "no." It was not until the former Roman and Baptist decided to become members of the church that they discovered that their

Lutheran neighbors were Lutheran but of another congregation near their home. Here was a Lutheran family living next door to another church, but doing nothing to win them to their church.

When the proposal committee was considering the budget to be proposed to the congregation for adoption does one question it will ask is:

"Is this congregation doing 'the job' in the area of evangelism in this neighborhood?" Other questions it will ask include such questions as:

"Is our church home—parsonage, worship edifice, parish house, adequate? Does it need repairs? Could we do better work if we had some improvements?"

"Are we doing the 'job' in education? Does our Sunday school program and facilities need some changes or improvements?"

"Does our pastor have adequate help, equipment, facilities and support?"

"Is the congregation doing enough for foreign missions?"

Lutheran Churches Report

Nearly 8 Million Members

membership of the Lutheran churches in North America is nearing eight-million mark.

A total of 7,866,320 members was added during 1957, it was reported New York in the annual statistical summary compiled by the Division of Ecumenical Relations of the National Lutheran Council.

The Lutheran Churches in the United States and Canada, according to the NLC, gained 248,019 members. This was an increase of 3.3 per cent, the same as in 1956, and about the same gain over the past decade. Comprising the third largest Protestant denominational grouping in America, the Lutheran Churches are ranked in numbers only by the Baptist and Methodists. Of the total Luthers, 7,627,738 are located in the United States and 238,582 in Canada. The latter are affiliated with the churches in the U. S.

The Council's summary is based on statistics supplied by sixteen Lutheran church bodies, plus the Negro Methodist Church, conducted by four groups assisted in the Lutheran Synodical Conference. Fourteen of the bodies reported increases in membership, one reported no change and two remained the same as their figures were taken from previous reports.

The gain in baptized membership of 19, in 1957, distributed among the 12 congregations, represents an average increase of 14 new members per local church, the same as in 1956. The figure is slightly higher than the average gain over the past decade.

Confirmed or adult membership added by 138,880 to a grand total of 7,830, a gain of 2.7 per cent. This indicates an average accession of 8 adult members per congregation in 1957, a little above the average of past ten years.

In the 13th consecutive year, the greatest numerical increase was made by the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Its gain of 75,721 baptized members or 3.5 per cent over 1956 added the synod's total membership to 228,133. Over the past 13 years it has added 787,762 members, an average of 60,597 annually. The Missouri Synod is the second largest Lutheran church in America.

Among the major bodies, the Evangelical Lutheran Church and the American Lutheran Church showed the greatest advance on a percentage basis, 3.8 per cent. The ELC gained

39,579 members and with 1,082,809 on its rolls is the third largest Lutheran body. The ALC added 35,417 members for a total of 972,929. It ranks as the fourth largest Lutheran group.

A gain of 3.4 per cent was recorded by the Augustana Lutheran Church with 18,794 additions that boosted its total membership to 576,198, fifth largest of the Lutheran bodies.

The United Lutheran Church in America, largest of the sixteen denominations, reported an increase of 60,259 or 2.6 per cent for a total of 2,395,611 members.

Greatest gain percentage-wise of any body, regardless of size, was made by the Slovak Church. However, its increase of 26.8 per cent, representing 4,252 additions, was attributed largely to changes in its statistical procedures. The Slovak Church last year reported a loss of 5,100 or 24 per cent over a two-year period. It now has 20,140 members.

Other gains were reported as follows: Joint Synod of Wisconsin, 3,886 or 1.1 per cent to 342,992; Lutheran Free Church, 3,085 or 4.2 per cent to 77,304; United Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2,525 or 4.1 per cent to 64,629; Suomi Synod, 2,508 or 7.0 per cent to 38,281; American Evangelical Lutheran Church, 144 or .6 per cent to 23,043.

Also, Norwegian Synod, 778 or 6.1 per cent to 13,601; National Evangelical Lutheran Church, 473 or 5.2 per cent to 9,500; and Negro Missions, 598 or 8.8 per cent to 7,429.

The Eielsen Synod reported 1,500 members, the same as in 1956. Membership in the Finnish Apostolic Church remained at 8,001 and in the Lutheran Brethren at 4,220 as no reports were received from these bodies and their figures were taken from a previous year.

The number of ordained Lutheran ministers rose to 17,495, an increase of 420 over 1956. Of these, 12,866, or 187 more than the previous year, were serving in pastorates during 1957.

The number of congregations increased to 17,712, a gain of 125, while the number of preaching places decreased by 33 to a total of 412.

Property valuation showed an increase of \$155,595,541 or 10.4 per cent to a grand total of \$1,656,167,223.

At the same time, indebtedness increased by \$56,355,307 or 25.7 per cent to a total of \$275,277,738. In 1945

church debts amounted to \$14,656,131, but the trend has been sharply upward every year since then, reflecting the post-war building boom and mounting costs.

In congregational finances, expenditures by the church for local expenses increased by \$25,026,708 to a total of \$293,521,740. Contributions to church work at large showed a substantial increase of \$7,398,465, as compared to less than \$2 million in 1956, and reached \$70,307,931. Total expenditures amounted to \$363,829,671, a gain of \$32,425,173 over 1956.

Canadian Lutherans

A separate compilation of statistics for the Lutheran churches in Canada, included in the foregoing figures, revealed that Canada has 238,582 baptized members and 151,992 confirmed or adult members. They are served by 1,044 congregations and 87 preaching places. The clerical roll consists of 598 pastors, of whom 491 are serving in congregations.

Property of the Canadian Lutheran churches, which are all affiliated with parent bodies in the U. S., is valued at \$32,431,005, with indebtedness of \$5,962,231.

During 1957, the churches devoted \$5,137,195 to local expenses and \$1,266,500 to church work at large, marking the third successive year the latter figure has gone over the million-dollar mark. Total expenditures amounted to \$6,403,695.

CHURCH NEWS

(Continued from Page 4)

transportation, education and health fronts.

2. Mexican nationals are tending crops in such numbers — almost half a million — that jobless domestic workers feel threatened by consequent lowered wage scales.

3. This season, 448 summer and 50 year-round Migrant Ministry staff, aided by Councils of Churches and of Church Women, will reach approximately 143,000 migrants in 32 states.

PLAN LUTHERAN CHURCH IN ETHIOPIA

SIGUNTA, Sweden—Plans are under way for the formation of a Lutheran Church in Ethiopia, it was reported at the annual meeting here of the Commission on World Mission of the Lutheran World Federation.

Mission boards of Europe and the U. S. have been conferring on a constitution for the new church body, which would unite all Lutheran groups in the African country, the commission was told.

To be known as the Mekane Yesus Church in Ethiopia, the denomination will have 30,000 members. It will be affiliated with the LWF.

(Continued on page 13)

Reconciliation

By Mark Thomsen

"All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation." (I Cor. 5:18)

At the heart of the Gospel stands the cross of Jesus Christ. The cross reveals the life and the heart of the Christ, and The Christ reveals the life and the heart of God as He confronts us in the joys, the anxieties and the terrors of life.

The New Testament portrays The Christ as the suffering servant, the Lamb of God, the expiation for our sins, the High Priest who once and for all entered into the Holy of Holies with His own precious blood.

These pictures are used in attempts to fully comprehend the words: Christ died **for us**; Christ died **for me**. Men have sought to understand more fully the cross and its meaning during all ages in the life of the church, and the wealth of interpretations reveal the magnificence of Calvary. For, in spite of multifarious interpretations, The Christ who was lifted up continues to draw men of various creeds and colors unto Himself.

A moment ago I placed my pencil down thinking that the African sun had made it much too hot and uncomfortable to write. It suddenly came to me that since this note is essentially a witness one should be able to witness to the Gospel when slightly uncomfortable. The cross itself bears witness to the fact that the Gospel is not a romantic ballad inspired by a luxuriant environment and superficial sentimentality. One, if a Christian, should be able to witness to the cross not only when slightly overheated, but when suffering hardships, persecutions and even death.

In studying the various texts concerning the cross in the New Testament one message rings out above all the difficulties in interpretation. The message is that God through Christ has accomplished and is accomplishing that which man could not nor cannot do. God has reconciled sinners to Himself. Man in his sin has separated himself from God, but God in Christ has bridged that gap and has made it possible for man once more to return to his heavenly Father.

Human interpretations of the suffering Christ so often have either taken all the power out of sin and the atonement or they have become static, mechanical formulas. On the one hand sin and the atonement have been completely nullified, and in their place men have placed a benignant God who does not really care about sin but nods His smiling face as men transform that which was paradise into hell. On the other hand formulas for the atonement have been presented which are quite similar to those which describe the functions of our electric appliances, furnaces and automobiles. To me, interpretations such as these either transform the living God into a spineless "old man" who commands the respect of no man and instead of worship receives embellished sympathy, or they deprive the living God of a dynamic, seeking and reconciling love which has always sought and will always seek sinners as myself.

It is Jesus who says "he who has seen me has seen the Father." On Calvary an eternal reality becomes active and manifest in history. God is made known in Christ for God is active in Christ. As we behold the Christ, the heart of the living God is opened to us. Not God as He was two thousand years ago, but God as He was 4000 years

Pastor Thomsen is missionary in Sudan, Nigeria, W. Africa

ago and as He is today, living and active among a sinful and rebellious people. Today God's love reaches out to grasp us; today God takes upon Himself the sins of the people; today God suffers for us; today God through Christ is reconciling us unto Himself.

This is our Christian faith and we believe it to be an eternal reality, for on the cross of Calvary we have beheld the suffering Christ who has opened our eyes to the suffering God. "No one has ever seen God, but the only one who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known."

This is then our reconciliation: the suffering God acted and made known to us in the suffering Christ. For in a sinful world it is suffering alone which can fuse love and holiness. Christ came into the world loving sinners and abhorring their sin. The mission of The Christ was not to eradicate sin, for in so doing He would have eradicated that which God loved, man. The mission of The Christ thus became a mission of suffering love. He entered a sinful world; He willed to live with it; He willed, in love, to carry its sin; He willed to reconcile it to God. Christ took upon Himself the sin of the world, the very sin which could have destroyed, in order that through Love He might reconcile man unto God. This love led Him to Calvary: the cross. And here man saw, as he never saw before, shall ever see again, the heart of Christ, and thus the heart of God.

A few years ago in a small Wisconsin village there lived a man with his small family. The father loved his children and tried his best to bring them up as children of God. But as a youth one of the headstrong young boys rebelled against his father and the Christian life which he represented and began to live a careless and loose life. The father, although he hated the son's wicked life, continued to love his son, even though his continued love meant months of suffering. The father took the sin of his son upon himself, for love which loves that which is in rebellion is a love which must suffer, for it loves that which is doing the very thing it abhors. Furthermore, it is a love which again and again reaches out a loving hand only to have it treated with scorn and contempt. But this love which this father had for his son, although heart-breaking, meant for the son the possibility of reconciliation. It is not mere imagery which says "that son has been bought with a price," for the possibility of his reconciliation of the loving father years of heartache and suffering.

Likewise it is not mere imagery which says, "You have been bought with a price, not with perishable things such as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ." Our reconciliation is made possible by the heartache, suffering, and the love of God our Father and His outstretched hand—Jesus Christ whom He sent into the world. There is no rosy sentimentality in the Gospel which says it is quite simple for God to forgive the sins of those men whom He loves. God in His holiness abhors sins and will not permit their destruction, but God, for reasons His love alone comprehends, loves sinners and has taken this sin upon Himself. He wills to live with it, and He wills to bear its cause of the infinite love which He has for us. It is the willingness of God to love us, to bear our sins, and to suffer for us which offers to us our reconciliation.

Our Heavenly Father, through His Son, offers to each one of us reconciliation, but at a cost that we shall never fully comprehend. This is grace, and can only be received as grace. Thank God!

Luther League Work

THE YOUTH DIRECTOR ANSWERS EDITOR

By George J. Robertson

Response to your editorial in the July 28th issue of *Ansgar Lutheran*, specifically the section on "OUR YOUTH PEOPLE'S WORK," I wish to make the following points.

In your first paragraph on this subject you make general statements which reflect a negative attitude toward the work in our church today. As I re-read the articles in *The Ansgar Lutheran* (April 15, 1957 and May 7 issues) I did not find them in agreement with the way you express in this paragraph. There were eleven articles in that series written by pastors whom you invited to write. You commented on those articles in your editorial of May 20, 1957 as follows:

"I almost feel after reading the articles, that Luther League work in our synod is just fine."¹

I believe that the first sentence in your recent editorial on "OUR YOUTH PEOPLE'S WORK" can be challenged because of the overwhelmingly positive statements in the articles referred to above. Things have not changed much in one year!

In paragraph three you raise the question of young people being trained to do things for themselves. You say when this is done, "we force them into adult ways of living before they are grown up."

In your editorial of May 20, 1957 you refer to a statement in one of the articles which claimed "that it works best when the leaguers are in full charge of everything." Then you added: "We feel sure this is the ideal situation."² Now it appears you do not favor working toward "the ideal situation."

In paragraph four you state: "We know that youth leadership is a lot of fun of the old league programs, where the pastor or the older person took charge and conducted the whole thing."

I have heard this method of youth work criticized, and I have criticized it myself, but I, for one, have never heard a youth leader "make fun of" it.

The idea of having young people take part in the program is not exactly new. When I was a teen-ager in the 1940s, our pastor, the late Rev. Anders Hansen, encouraged us to participate by conducting devotions, reading articles, and singing special numbers at our meetings.

When I was reading from a mission story at our church, I got to laughing so hard at a humorous incident in the story, that I could hardly finish the reading. Of

course the leaguers laughed too. I can still see the twinkle in Pastor Hansen's eye and his broad smile as he chuckled and joined in the amusement. I believe it is to his credit that he did not become impatient and decide to do the reading himself from that time on. Even at that time Pastor Hansen believed in letting young people take an active part in the program. The young people loved and respected him.

In paragraph seven you state:

"Perhaps a courageous pastor should ignore all the ideas passed along by the leadership schools and blaze a new way in his training of the youth."

Our leadership schools have followed the pattern established by Dr. Marcus Rieke, Youth Director of the A.L.C. Dr. Rieke pioneered this type of school. Admittedly we have not always "cut the cloth according to the pattern," but we have adhered to the same principles as those followed in the A.L.C. and E.L.C. as well as Augustana leadership training schools.

Two years ago the Manpower Commission of the A.L.C. requested their Youth Department to double the number of Leadership Training Schools. Why? Because a survey conducted among their seminary students showed that Leadership Training Schools had had a strong influence in the spiritual development of a large percentage of these students and had brought them to an awareness of the call to the ministry.

To suggest that "all the ideas passed along by the leadership schools" be ignored, seems to me to be a low blow not only at our own leadership training program, but at that of almost every Lutheran synod in America.³

The "ideas passed along by the leadership schools" are not directives to the pastors. Any pastor may ignore them if he chooses. Moreover, any pastor who can "blaze a new way" which produces better results in the local league will find his ideas welcomed by youth leaders. Youth leaders are constantly looking for new and better ways of doing youth work. That is why we are conducting the LUTHERAN YOUTH RESEARCH project this fall and winter.

The most misleading statement in your editorial of July 28 is expressed in the last two sentences quoted below:

"There should be material enough in the Bible, in the biographies of missionaries, and in the story of the church to challenge the youth. Why don't the program helps sent to the church from the youth office think of these sources?"

This is a serious indictment. It is unfair because only a few of your readers have seen the helps to which you refer.

The 1958-59 YOUTH PROGRAMS contain five programs which are purely Bible Study. I find only one program out of the 59 in this book which does not make direct use of Scripture. That program is a drama portraying the hope of life after death. It is a reprint from "ONE" Magazine, and was not written as a league program originally. Even so, it carries a distinct Christian message through the voice of THE LAMB representing Jesus Christ.

To indicate what the policy of the JOINT YOUTH PUBLICATIONS COUNCIL is on this matter, permit me to

(Continued on page 9)

Young Men for the Ministry

By Marcus Rieke,

Youth Director, American Lutheran Church

Have you ever wondered where we get our pastors? Where do they come from? How do they get interested? Who was their inspiration to study for the Gospel Ministry?

The answer to these questions is given by our Lord when he said, "The harvest truly is great . . . pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that he would send forth laborers . . ." Somewhere along the line someone has been praying and the Lord—true to His promise—has been answering. Specifically, we think of our pastors and consecrated lay people who zealously recruit young men for the Gospel Ministry. We think of Godly parents, grandparents and relatives who encourage and pray for young men of their household to become pastors of our church. We think of our excellent colleges and seminaries, their teachers and executives who year in and year out unselfishly give of their time and talents in the preparation of Gospel Ministers. We think of the prayers of the Church and of the concern of church officials and church departments, all working hand in hand to meet the needs of our day for ministers of the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

And yet we do not have enough men!

For years and years those who plan the affairs of the Church and who are charged with the responsibility of its growth have seen with dismay and sorrow opportunity after opportunity go by simply because "we do not have the men."

There are some frightening statistics on ministerial shortages throughout the world today. Even in our own Lutheran Churches here in America we are short hundreds of men. Thousands and thousands of people do not hear the Gospel preached—do not hear the story of Jesus and His love—really are eternally lost because they don't know Jesus and life eternal through His name.

Our Church remembers the words of the Apostle Paul when speaking of the multitudes he said, "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?"

Therefore, in the spirit of earnest prayer for the salvation of souls and with the determination to do even more than has been done before to meet the great need of ministers, our churches have approved and set into motion a program known as MEN FOR THE MINISTRY Conferences.

Forty such Conferences covering the churches of ALC, ELC, LC and UELC in the United States and Canada will be held November 15, 1958-March 14, 1959. The Conferences will call young men—primarily those in high school—together for a one-day session of information and education concerning the Gospel Ministry.

The Conferences are a co-operative endeavor of the church administration, youth department and brotherhood organizations of our respective churches. The general president of the church (in some cases his representative), a

youth director and a competent and able layman work together with a district president and competent representation from our colleges will comprise the faculty of these MEN FOR THE MINISTRY Conferences.

Each congregation is strongly encouraged to select the most promising young men to attend the Conferences. It is hoped that the pastor and council of the local church will make the selections and then that the local brotherhood will see that the young men selected get to the conference nearest their congregation. The faculties, sites and dates of the 40 Conferences have, or soon will be, published.

There will be no attempt to "high pressure" any of the young men into the Gospel Ministry. This would be a mistake. Rather, the day's meeting will present to the young men a complete and, we believe, an inspiring program that will give every youth who attends a much clearer picture of the Gospel Ministry. We believe that through presentations that are planned—visual aids on the ministry, lectures by the church presidents, youth leaders and men, open forum and discussion periods in which you can ask questions—that there will be many of these young men who will have new insights of the opportunities in the Gospel Ministry. The Holy Spirit will work as He wills in the hearts of our youth. Our task is but to tell the story and present the needs.

The Conferences are not without precedent. During 1957 the American Lutheran Church conducted a series of twelve such Conferences. Total attendance at twelve Conferences was 2,090 with approximately 50% indicating interest in the Gospel Ministry. For the forty Conferences ahead, it is entirely possible that we shall meet between 10,000 and 12,000 young men, and of this number it is as possible that 5,000 or 6,000 of them will indicate an interest in becoming pastors of our church.

Admittedly, the program is a long-range one. The average age of the young men who attend will be approximately 16 years of age. They will be 8-10 years away from the time when they can actually become pastors. What percentage of the young men who will attend these conferences will actually become pastors only God knows, but we do honestly believe that through such meetings as are being planned many more youth will be led by the Holy Spirit to prepare themselves for a call into one of the many fields of services now available for Gospel Ministers.

The youth who attend these meetings will be told there are many places for ministers to serve, not only in the regular parish, but as assistant pastors, as home missionaries, as chaplains in the Armed Services and in homes of mercy; as executives in our respective churches, in the NLC and LWF; as educators and journalists, and as teachers and executives in our colleges and seminaries.

Our Lord always keeps His promises. He said to us "I will therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." We will do just that. He will answer our prayers and give us the men if we pray hard enough and work diligently toward that goal.

It would be a wonderful event if we could go to all the congregations some day in the not too distant future and say to them "We have men available." It would be a glorious day if, when those who plan the work of the Church sit together at a meeting, someone could tell them "We have the men available . . . your larger program can be developed!" It would be a great day if we as a church could offer many men to other Lutheran churches in the Lutheran World Federation who are so desperately pathetically short of ministerial manpower. Yes, it would be a great day in the Kingdom of God if we could do

promises and have enough laborers to reap the harvest which our Lord speaks.

we solicit the prayers of those who read this papre. for the MEN FOR THE MINISTRY Conferences and that you can to send your most promising young men. e youth, together with hundreds of others of like mind spirit, are challenged and encouraged by one another's nce and by one another's desire to think and pray usly about the Gospel Ministry. We know from past rience how youth thrill at being with other young who don't "laugh" at their desire to be a pastor. At Conferences our youth find that there are hundreds of young men who also think and pray seriously about nning pastors. This encourages them. Our young men learn that the Ministry, while not easy, **does** offer less satisfactions because it's a service so close to the t of our Lord.

wonder Isaiah wrote "How beautiful upon the moun- are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that isheth peace: that bringeth good tidings of God, that isheth salvation: that saith unto Zion, thy God reign-

LUTHER LEAGUE WORK

(Continued from page 7)

e from "GUIDE SHEET FOR WRITERS OF YOUTH GRAMS MATERIAL:

y is recommended that the program make use of the ptures as much as possible; that is, leading directly or ectly to the Word of God for answers."

d from page 8 of the 1958-59 **YOUTH PROGRAMS I** e the following:

s far as possible let each program grow out of the ptures! Claim the promises which God has given reing His Word. 'The Word Alone' is one of the watch- ds of the Lutheran Church. It has great meaning for er League programming. Youth need to hear the au- tic: "Thus says the Lord."

ow can such a program help be referred to as though hought had been given to the Bible as a source?

or has church history been forgotten. Four programs his annual deal with some phase of church history, in- ing "Scenes from Luther's Life." There is also a fine ram on missions written by Dr. Rudolph Burke, as- ate director of world missions of the Augustana Synod.

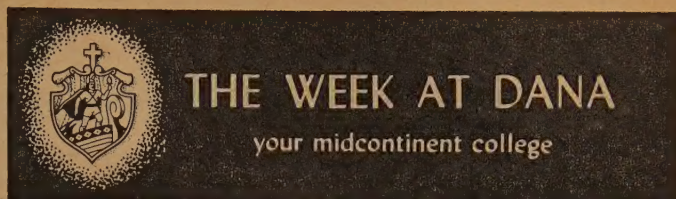
ou say we have not though of biographies of mission- s and other great leaders of the church? May I remind and our readers that we have often urged leaguers to and to use as program material, the books in our er League Reading Course. One of these books in the se is "THROUGH GATES OF SPLENDOR," telling of martyrdrom of five young missionaries in the jungle of dor. Another is "THE MIDNIGHT LION," a novel d on the life of Gustavus Adolphus.

or's Notes:

is was an appraisal of the eleven articles, and it did xpress agreement.

e still believe this to be the ideal situation, where the eaguers are mature enough.

ad our remarks on page 3.



August 30, 1958

At the time of this writing, 176 new students have applied for admission to Dana for the coming semester. That is an increase of 41 over the figure on the same date last year. In addition, it is estimated that more than the usual percentage of last year's students will return. It appears Dana is on the verge of another enrollment record.

By the next issue, enrollment figures should be complete. In the advance registration for NEW students, 21 states are represented, along with three foreign countries: Canada, Free China, and Korea.

The gifts and bequests plan of Dana College has been established to give interested individuals, families and corporations a ready opportunity to share in the College's financial development. It invites the continuous cooperation of attorneys, trust officers, alumni and others who are in a position to advise people on financial matters.

For many individuals who seek professional advice, the needs and purposes of Dana College present a most satisfying means of applying financial resources to an enduring program. Through the members of its Gifts and Bequests Committee the College can thus be recommended as a worthy beneficiary, whether the intended sum be large or modest.

Members of this committee, functioning throughout the nation, are aware of the College's needs and programs. They are constantly informed of the College's progress through literature, special publications, personal visits, and occasional meetings. The services of the College's development office and legal staff are readily available for consultation. Such contact is often advisable to ensure the greater benefit to the donor as well as to the purposes to which his benefaction is to apply.

**PLAN TO ATTEND HOMECOMING
OCTOBER 24-25**

THE LUTHER LEAGUE

John W. Nielsen, Editor

North Dakota-Montana District Meets;

Adopts Japan Chapel Project

The building of a chapel in Japan has become the goal of the Luther Leaguers of the North Dakota-Montana District following their annual convention which was held August 7-10 at Nazareth Lutheran Church, Kenmare, North Dakota. The project was adopted by the nineteen delegates among the 101 registered "conventioners."

Besides adopting the Japan project the convention re-elected its slate of District officers headed by **Pastor Virgil Anderson, Flaxton, N. D.**, president. Other officers are **Pastor Cleo Hanson, Kenmare, N. D.**, vice-president; **Judy Johnson, Sidney, Mont.**, secretary; and **Anna Marie Larsen, Kenmare, N. D.**, treasurer.

Guest speaker for the convention, which used as its theme "Filled With The Spirit" was **Pastor Norlan Hansen, Denver, Colorado**. Besides keynoting the gathering, Pastor Hansen wrote the words of a song on the convention theme which was sung at the Saturday night banquet.

The convention provided a choral union under the direction of **Mrs. Harold B. Kildahl, Jr., Minot, N. D.** besides a varied program of devotion, discussion, and recreation.

The following decisions were made: 1) that the Fall Rally be held at the Upper Missouri Bible Camp chapel at Epping, 2) that the \$75.00 Dana scholarship be continued, 3) that increased Bible camp participation be encouraged, 4) that the first Sunday in December be designated "Chimes Sunday" and that the contest between leagues in the sale of Chimes be continued, 5) that **One** magazine be promoted, 6) that February be designated "One Month," 7) that **Youth Programs** and "The League Manual" be used, 8) that the annual P.T.L. banquet and the use of "The Uniting Word" be

continued, 9) that the "Good Faith Offering" be practiced, 10) that Youth Sunday be observed, 11) that five cents per mile be allocated pastors for traveling expense to conventions, 12) that the District build a chapel in Japan, 13) that Leagues be encouraged to adopt the Y.E.S. program, 14) that the District Luther League calendar be used, 15) that a District bus be chartered for the Synodical Luther League Convention at Dana in the Fall of 1959, and 16) that a summary of District conventions be read at the last convention before merger.

Youth of TALC Make Plans To Get Acquainted

The youth of ALC, ELC, and UELC are eagerly anticipating an opportunity to become acquainted with each other through 19 area "Get-Acquainted" Rallies during the fall. The areas for these rallies have been outlined according to the new proposed districts of TALC. Youth leaders in these various areas have been organized and are working out the details in providing an opportunity for many young people of TALC to meet at present.

These rallies are to cover a period from one to two days with most of them falling on Thanksgiving week-end. In the program for these rallies are included Bible Study which centers around the theme "Forward With Christ" which is the combined theme for all three synods, a filmstrip which depicts the history of each particular synod's youth work together with some of the anticipated plans for youth of the merged church. Each program includes special speakers from the various youth offices of the three synods.

According to advance estimates, approximately 12,000 youth plan to attend one of these rallies. Listed on the next page is the schedule of the rallies.

"GET-ACQUAINTED" RALLIES-FALL, 1958

ally Area rn	Convener	Place	Date
	Rev. John Muller Bailey Avenue at W. 231st St. New York 63, New York	Christ Church Bethesda, Maryland	Nov. 28-29
	Rev. Bob Nervig 411-46th Street Brooklyn, New York		
rn and ern N. Dak.	Rev. G. Van Hunik 1002-10th Street South Fargo, North Dakota	Bismarck, N. Dak. Trinity Lutheran	Oct. 16, 17, 18
	Rev. Virgil Andersen Flaxton, N. Dak.		
nwestern	Rev. Theol Hoiland 470 "B" Street Lebanon, Oregon	Richland Lutheran Richland, Washington	Nov. 28-30
7, Minnesota	Rev. Reynold Tange Luck, Wisconsin	St. Olaf College Northfield, Minn.	Nov. 28, 29
Minnesota	Rev. Oliver Ruud Alexandria, Minnesota	Trinity Lutheran Moorhead, Minnesota	Oct. 23-25
n Texas	Mr. Charles Eckert %Texas Luth. College Seguin, Texas	Texas Lutheran Seguin, Texas	Nov. 28, 29
nwestern	Mr. William Ray 6238 Condon Ave. Los Angeles, Calif.	North-Central Oakland, Calif. South St. Paul's Lynwood, California	Nov. 28, 29
y Mountain	Rev. Roald Kindem Box 66 Havre, Montana	Faith Lutheran Great Falls, Montana	Nov. 9, 10
	Rev. Lloyd Lorenson Exira, Iowa	Wartburg College Waverly, Iowa	Nov. 29
al	Rev. E. O. Baack Talmage, Nebraska	St. John's Lutheran Kensington, Kansas	Nov. 28, 29
n Dakota	Rev. Philip Natwick 229 South Smith Street Clark, South Dakota	American Lutheran Huron, South Dakota	Nov. 28, 29
Wisconsin	Rev. Marcus Gravdal Grace Lutheran 200 W. Grand Ave. Eau Claire, Wisconsin	Grace Lutheran Eau Claire, Wisconsin	Nov. 28, 29
isconsin	Rev. Carl Stubenvoll 207 State Street Ripon, Wisconsin	Bethel or Trinity Madison, Wisconsin	Nov. 29, 30
gan	Mr. Fred Orth 314 Mt. Vernon Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.	Adrian College Adrian, Michigan	Nov. 28, 29, 30
is	Rev. Jack Olson 2310 Thorntree Lane Palatine, Illinois	Hotel DePere Peoria, Illinois	Nov. 28, 29
	Mr. Gene Fogt 57 East Main Street Columbus 15, Ohio	Zion Lutheran Sandusky, Ohio	Nov. 28, 29
da	Rev. Bent J. Damkar Standard, Alberta Canada	Trinity Lutheran Calgary, Alberta, Canada	Oct. 12-13

YOUTH OFFICE BULLETIN BOARD

Hong Kong Pastor Orders YOUTH PROGRAMS

Many orders are being received at the Youth Office for extra copies of the 1958-59 Youth Programs. A few days ago we received an order from Rev. W. Tolt, 19 Oxford, Rd., Kowloon, Hong Kong. If you need extra copies, we suggest you order soon. \$1.25 for single copies, \$1.00 per copy if 5 or more copies are ordered sent to one address.

The League Manual has been sent free of charge to all parish pastors and local league presidents. We

have also sent a free copy to all counselors on our mailing list. Counselors who have not received a copy should send their name and address at once to the Youth Office, 108 Hansen Ave., Rt. 1, Blair, Nebr.

We have more than 70 league counselors on our mailing list at present. The names and addresses of local league presidents are being sent to us more promptly than ever before. Thanks for your fine cooperation!

THE LUTHER LEAGUE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS IN BLAIR, NEBR., SEPT. 30TH

BY THE FIRESIDE

STEWARDSHIP

STEWARD I—and not possessor—of the wealth intrusted me.
 What, were God himself the holder, would his disposition be?
 This I ask myself each morning, every noon, and every night,
 As I view his gentle goodness with an ever new delight.
 Steward only—never owner—of the time that he has lent.
 How, were he my life's custodian, would years on earth be spent?
 Thus I ask myself each hour, as I plod my pilgrim way
 Steeped in gratefulest amazement at his mercy day by day.
 Steward only—not possessor—of the part of him that's I.
 Clearer grows this truth, and dearer, as the years go slipping by.
 May I softly go, and humbly, head and heart in reverence bent,
 That I may not fear to show him how my stewardship was spent.

—Strickland Gillilan

CHRISTIANS, BE KIND

Sir Wilfred T. Grenfell of Labrador felt that the continuous stream of patients awaiting his services often demanded extraordinary sympathy, and sometimes there was the tendency to become irritable. To check this, he was in the habit of giving a prominent place in his surgery to these words:

"He did everything so kindly,
 It seemed His heart's delight
 To make poor people happy
 From morning until night."

Because God is "kind unto the unthankful and to the evil," we are to emulate Him and love our enemies and do them kindness. Many a stubborn, rebellious heart has been softened by the kindness of a sympathetic word or an unexpected favor. The practice of Christian loving-kindness will do more to reach the indifferent and even the hostile than all the profession that is only profession.

It is useless to give peaceful salutations to the hungry and ragged if we do not meet their urgent need to the measure of our ability. "Faith, if it hath not works, is dead."

While the Christian is required to "confess with the mouth," it is essential that the profession of the lips should be supported by the practice of the life. Kindness is the everyday practice of our faith in relation to anyone in need whom we are in a position to help.

—War Cry (New York)

CAUSE FOR ALARM

By Grace V. Atkins

He's in a dark emotional stew—
 A stranger sitting in his pew!
 What stupid usher put him there?
 It's true, there's ample room to spare,
 But all these years his family
 Has exercised monopoly
 On that especial pew. Alas,
 That such intrusions come to pass!
 I can't help smiling just a bit:
 The total picture doesn't fit,
 For oh, a squatter's claim seems odd
 Within the holy house of God!

—Church Business

WOODLAND GLADE

By Lorie C. Gooding

All fair in color and form, and fresh
 With shining morning-dew,
 Untrodden by the foot of man,
 This tiny world-made-new.

The gossamer web of spider-silk
 That glistens down the light,
 Unbroken yet, and undisturbed,
 The net she spun last night.

And nothing moves except the sun,
 No flower nor blade or leaf;
 This perfect little paradise
 Has never witnessed grief.

All fair in color and form, and fresh
 With shining morning-dew,
 An earlier Eden, more remote
 Than Adam ever knew.

—The Gospel Herald

HUMILITY

Humility is perfect quietness of heart. It is for me never to be fretted, vexed, irritated, sore, or disappointed. It is to be at rest when nobody praises me and when I am blamed or despised. It is to have a blessed home in the Lord, where I can go and knock at the door and kneel and talk to my Father in secret, and where I am in peace as in a deep sea of calm amidst all that is around and above is troubling me.

—Thomas a Kempis

SMALL SERVICE

Time makes the little service great.
 Two thousand years ago and more,
 The Master saw a widow pause
 And give her little to the cause,
 And still men tell the story of her

The measure of the kindly deed
 Is not its present worth or size.
 The word of cheer one stops to speak
 May lift unto the mountain peak
 The youth the desert terrifies.

One may himself a failure seem,
 And yet perhaps some trivial good
 His heart has prompted him to do
 Unselfishly, for friendship's sake
 Another from the depths may find

Lives have been changed in moments
 rare
 Along the pathways mortals plod
 Unseen and little understood
 Are many ways of doing good
 And many ways of serving God
 —Edgar A. Guest

THE CLOTHESBRUSH

In an old farmhouse near Wiltshire, England, there hangs a unique clothesbrush in the hall closet. On the handle of this brush, in large letters, is the word: LOVE.

The clothes-brush is frequently used for the purpose for which it was designed—to whisk the dust from dresses and coats and dresses. The exercise of this common-place function tells a story: when we find it necessary to remove the dust from our fellow-men, we should do so with love.

"Let all your things be done with love" (I Cor. 16:14). What a blessing it would be—and how unusual in these days, sad to say—if we would do all with the sins and faults of fellow-Christians in meekness and love, considering ourselves, lest we also be tempted (Gal. 6:1).

—The Pilgrim

Insurance agent to prospect: "I can save yourself a rather dull fifteen minutes by buying now before I have started on my sales talk."

CHURCH NEWS

(Continued from page 5)
Establishment of a joint Lutheran primary in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, is also projected. It is to be opened in the fall of 1960. Lutheran groups now active in Ethiopia include the German Hermannsburg Mission, the Swedish Evangelical Mission, the Norwegian Lutheran Mission, the Danish Lutheran Mission, the Danish Bible Believing Friends, and the American Lutheran Church. A constitution assembly for the new church is scheduled for January.

MEMBERSHIP TOTAL

At the end of 1957, the confirmed membership of The Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELC) totaled 1,083,007 at the end of 1957, according to statistics released today by O. H. Hove (HO'VEE), the body's general secretary. The ELC gained 39,777 members during 1957, or 3.81 per cent over the total of 1,043,230, Dr. Hove's report stated. Last year's statistics showed a total of 1,043,230 ELC congregations throughout the U. S. and Canada, served by 1,479 pastors. Total 1957 ELC membership included 713,697 confirmed members, a gain of 3.07 per cent over the 1956 total. The church's annual statistical summary again revealed that the ELC continues to grow at its fastest rate in the West. The California district last year counted a membership increase of 13.15 per cent. The Pacific district grew by 9.60 per cent, followed by the Canada district with 7.88 percent, and the Rocky Mountain district with an increase of 6.12 per cent. Districts with the largest numerical

baptized gain in 1957 were: Eastern District 7,939; Southern Minnesota, 7,658; California, 5,469; Pacific, 5,306; and South Dakota, 3,038.

ELC Sunday school enrollment increased from 311,561 in 1956 to 328,611, a growth of 5.47 per cent. The report listed 2,524 Sunday schools with 39,375 teachers and officers.

UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH MEMBERSHIP AT 2,395,197

The baptized membership of the United Lutheran Church in America has reached a record total of 2,395,197.

Dr. F. Eppling Reinartz, church secretary and statistician, reported to the

quarterly meeting of the denomination's Executive Board today that reports from 4,508 congregations in 32 synods in the U.S. and Canada showed that the church had registered a net gain of 59,845 baptized members during 1957, an increase of 2.56 per cent, over the previous year.

The ULCA—largest Lutheran body in America—reported 1,630,846 confirmed members, an increase of 34,681, according to preliminary summaries of 1957 statistics.

The number of communing members, 1,204,041, represented a gain of 35,752 over the previous year.



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	Total	Synodical
Budget.....		\$488949.00
Forward Phase.....		92500.00
Previously Acknowledged.....	\$72139.46	\$54374.06
Fresno, Calif., Marie K. Jensen in memory of Mrs. Petrea Petersen for LWA.....	10.00	
Oakland, Calif., Our Savior's Luth. Church, offering for Japan Mission when Paul Johnsen spoke there.....	44.76	44.76
Chicago, Ill., Golgotha Luth. Church for LWA.....	476.10	
Avoca, Iowa, English Luth. Sunday School for Foreign Missions.....	41.00	41.00
Exira, Iowa, Exira Luth. Church in memory of Harry Wiges \$18.00, and in memory of Marjorie Stone \$1.50 on Synodical Quota.....	19.50	19.50
Ringsted, Iowa, St. Paul's Luth. Church, given by Mr. and Mrs. George Neve for Dana College \$25.00; Japan Mission \$10.00; and LWA \$20.00.....	55.00	35.00
Worcester, Mass., Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Sweet and the "Staff" of Trinity Luth. Church in memory of Mrs. Nicoline Rasmussen, Milton, Mass., for LWA.....	10.00	
Hutchinson, Minn., Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Lamp for South America Mission \$1.00; LWA \$2.00.....	3.00	1.00
Hutchinson, Minn., Main Street Luth. Church for August Quota.....	700.00	700.00
Northfield, Minn., St. Peter's Luth. Church given by friends and relatives in memory of Eva Nelson for Pension Fund \$1.00; Foreign Mission \$5.00, Sudan Mission \$1.00; and Home Mission \$6.00.....	13.00	13.00
Westby, Mont., Emmaus Luth. Church given by Mr. and Mrs. N. P. Nielsen in memory of Mr. Fred Brentesen, Plentywood, Mont., for Home Missions.....	2.00	2.00
Abdal, Nebr., Bethel Luth. Church in memory of Rev. Albert Haferman for Foreign Missions.....	5.00	5.00
Ord, Nebr., Bethany Luth. Church for LWA.....	34.25	
Given by the Aagaard family of Ord "for the work of Helen Danielsen" South America Mission.....	5.00	5.00
Denmark, Wis., Our Savior's Luth. Church "Collection for Sudan Mission when Donald Wahlgren spoke".....	23.72	23.72
Luck, Wis., First English Evang. Luth. Church given by Bible School for Foreign Missions.....		
Given by Fred Petersen for Japan Mission \$5.00; Santal Mission \$10.00.....	15.00	15.00
Poy Sippi, Wis., First Luth. Family Mission Workers for Sudan Mission. "Mark Thomsen's salary for Sept., Oct. and Nov.".....	300.00	300.00
Des Moines, Iowa, Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Christensen in memory of Mr. Julius Kloth, Westbrook, Maine, \$5.00; in memory of Mrs. C. A. Sparling, Moline, Ill., \$5.00; in memory of Mrs. Panduro Rasmussen, Boston, Mass., for Foreign Missions.....	15.00	15.00
Elk Horn, Iowa, Elk Horn Luth. Church, given by Mr. and Mrs. Ed Steen for Foreign Missions.....	15.00	15.00
Humboldt, Iowa, Trinity Luth. Church. Given by friends and relatives in memory of Mrs. Petra J. Madsen for Dana College Fund \$20.00; Home Missions \$16.50; Foreign Missions \$8.00.....	44.50	44.50
Kimballton, Iowa, Bethany Luth. Church for Synodical Quota.....	100.00	100.00
Shelby, Iowa, United Evangelical Luth. Church for LWA.....	20.00	
Northfield, Minn., St. Peter's Luth. Ladies Aid in memory of Randy Alan Jason for LWA.....	3.00	
McCabe, Mont., Ebenezer Luth. Church. Given by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nelson in memory of Mrs. Marthine Thorpe, Nohly, Mont., for LWA.....	3.00	
Blair, Nebr., in memory of Dr. Ethan Mengers for Dana College Development Program from Rev. and Mrs. C. B. Larsen; Rev. and Mrs. J. P. Nielsen; Rev. and Mrs. M. P. Bollesen; Rev. and Mrs. A. V. Neve; Rev. and Mrs. W. Thomsen; Rev. and Mrs. P. L. Thorslev; Mr. and Mrs. Dan Greene; Mr. and Mrs. Martinus Hansen; Mrs. Eskildsen; Miss Sena Bertelsen; and Miss Marie Rasmussen, \$11.00.....		
Toronto, Ont., Canada, St. Ansgar Luth. Church, for General Fund.....	200.00	200.00
Cedar Falls, Iowa, Nazareth Luth. Sunday School for Foreign Missions.....	40.00	40.00
Cedar Falls, Iowa, Nazareth Luth. Church for Synodical Quota.....	1120.00	1120.00
Northfield, Minn., St. Peter's Luth. Church. Circle 1, for Sudan Mission \$30.00; Oaks Children's Home \$15.00; Minden Old People's Home \$15.00.....	45.00	45.00
Westby, Mont., Emmaus Ladies Aid in memory of Dr. Ethan Mengers for School Fund \$5.00; and in memory of Louie Andersen, Kalispell, Mont., for Sudan Mission \$5.00.....	10.00	10.00
Sidney, Mont., Pella Luth. Church for Synodical Quota.....	700.00	700.00
Freemont, Nebr., First Luth. Church. Given by Mr. and Mrs. Roy Andersen and Mr. and Mrs. John C. Freund in memory of Louis Andersen, Kalispell, Mont., for Sudan Mission.....	5.00	5.00
Eugene, Ore., Emmaus Luth. Church for General Fund.....	175.00	175.00
Shennington, Wis., St. Peters Luth. Church. Given by Mrs. R. S. Jensen, Camp Douglas, in memory of her mother, Mrs. William Waltemath, for Foreign Missions.....	5.00	5.00
Milwaukee, Wis., Kingo Luth. Church for Synodical Quota.....	300.00	300.00
Sidney, Mont., Pella Foreign Mission Society for Sudan Mission.....	51.40	51.40
Sidney, Mont., Mrs. Johanne Hansen in memory of Mr. Louis Andersen, Kalispell, Mont., for Santal Mission.....	1.50	1.50
Bowbells, North Dakota, Ilean Rohe for Sudan Mission.....	200.00	200.00
Denmark, Wis., Our Saviors Luth. Sunday School for General Fund.....	80.00	80.00
Milltown, Wis., Milltown Busy Bees, in memory of Mrs. Bengston, for Home Missions.....	3.00	3.00
Standard, Alta, Canada, West Canada Dist. Treasurer. Anton Myrthu, Standard, in memory of Mrs. Jens Vanghoj, Calgary, for Sudan Mission.....	1.00	1.00
TOTAL	\$77049.19	\$58705.44

Received with thanks

Blair, Nebraska, August 30, 1958

P. V. Hansen, Tre

Note: A contribution previously reported as given by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Jensen, Plainview, Nebr., in memory of Pastor Chr. Sorensen, should be from Mr. and Mrs. Albert Johnson.

BOOK REVIEWS

All books reviewed may be purchased from Lutheran Publishing House, Blair, Nebraska.

Success in Marriage

By David R. Mace, Abingdon Press, 157 pages, \$2.95.

This is one of the best books on the subject of marriage and all the problems that it entails. The problems of the wife as well as the husband are discussed. Anyone who wants help in counselling finds the book valuable. And couples, who may have trouble, will also find it very

helpful. It touches on the problems caused by personality differences. Sex and such subjects as wandering affections are discussed.

How To Tell Your Child About Sex

By Clyde M. Narramore, Zondervan Publ. House, 97 pages, \$2.00.

This book is a well illustrated, easily read volume on a subject that causes parents no little concern. We feel sure that the content of the book will help all right thinking parents.

The Spirit Is Willing

By David Soper, The Westminster Press, 142 pages, \$2.50.

This book has 15 thought provoking and stimulating essays. The author reveals deep insight and originality. Here are samples of the subjects: When Youth is Wiser than Age; Rigor Mortis at Forty; The Mark of the Gray-flannel Mind; "No Man's Island"; The "Romantic" Protestant. The final part of the book emphasizes fellowship which is the work of the Holy Spirit. The books will be helpful for the pastor in preparing sermons.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

By Ruth Petrusson

The 26th annual business meeting of the W.M.S. convened Saturday June 21st at 2 p.m. After devotions by Mrs. Lippincott of Blair and a hearty welcome to delegates and guests, Mrs. Meyer, president of the Central District, A.L.C. and Mrs. Haslett, E.L.C. president of South Central District spoke. Mrs. Meyer spoke on stewardship of vocation, church, and of self; Mrs. Haslett on "Wider Horizons." It was inspiring to meet our sisters in person and hear of their experiences and labors in the Lord.

The President's, Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were accepted by the convention. The new proposed constitution was read and discussed paragraph by paragraph. This constitution for "Women of the Church" has been studied by the Joint Union Committee and some sections revised before its presentation to the women's organizations of the three merging districts at their annual conventions.

A three minute report was given by Mrs. H. W.M.S. District president, and in the absence of the president a written report was given. It was interesting to hear of how the women of the church are working to support Home Missions, Foreign Missions, our Eleemosynary Institutions, Christian High Education, Bible Camps, Lutheran Welfare and the Lutheran Student Foundation. How grateful we should be to see increased number of women in the church realizing that real stewardship is giving to the Lord willingly from the bounties He has first given us.

Three new mission programs presented by Mrs. Wm. Larsen, Mrs. Paul Mussen and Mrs. Donald Wahlgren were presented for use in our local societies.

Miss Margaret Miller was elected president; Mrs. A. M. Vig, recording secretary; Mrs. Ralph Wineberg, statistical secretary; and Mrs. Nelson Boe as Mrs. C. C. Madsen auditors.

28 delegates and Pastors' wives were registered as voting members. There were about 450 women who attended the session.

Among the recommendations presented by the Executive Board at the business session and adopted these are most important:

That we again urge our members to study "Women of the Church Plan" and continue working toward organization of the "Women of the Church." That we suggest a "Women of the Church" committee in each district composed of the president and two members from churches that have the O.C. plan at present. This committee is to assist the local group in organizing.

That we honor Dr. J. M. T. Winther, Octogenarian Missionary to Japan

by supplying funds in the amount of \$1500 for a pre-fab chapel.

That the offering which will be received at the World Mission service Saturday evening be given to the Foreign Mission Fund to be used where needed.

That we allow \$2400—(\$2000 for salary and \$400 for traveling expense) to send Miss Marlene Paulsen of Blair, Nebraska to Japan as English teacher in the girls' school in Kumamoto.

That we send a congratulatory greeting to Dana College upon the attainment of accreditation and include a gift of \$500 for use in the Student aid fund.

That we make use of the program, "A Lutheran Church among the Japanese," dealing with the work among the Nisei on the West Coast, written by Mrs. D. G. M. Bach.

That the following budget for June 1959 to June 1960 be adopted:

Foreign Missions	\$10,500
Home Missions	1,000
Dana Foundation	1,000
General Expense	1,000
	<hr/>
	\$13,500

W.M.S. Banquet,

Saturday June 21st, 5:30 p.m.

The W.M.S. banquet, served in the dining hall of First Lutheran Church, Blair, was a colorful occasion. The theme "Let's join hands around the World" was adopted from the chosen convention passage, John 9:4, "We must work the works of Him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work." The joining of yellow, black, red and white hands around the world was impressed upon us in the mobiles which hung above the banquet table. The floral globe on the guest table reminded us that our field extends around the world.

Mrs. Otto Stave served as Toastmistress with Mrs. Richard Boe leading the group in devotions. The Girls' Club Chorus under the direction of Mrs. Gerald Hansen beautifully rendered several numbers. Pastor Paul Johnsen, missionary to Japan accepted, on behalf of Dr. Winther, the \$1500 gift from the W.M.S. for the erection of a pre-fab chapel. Pastor Johnsen accepted with these words: "One of the greatest needs on the mission field outside the missionary is a place to meet." Vice-president Mrs. George Pallesen installed the newly elected officers: Miss Margaret Miller as president, Mrs. A. M. Vig as recording secretary, and Mrs. Ralph Wineberg as statistical secretary. The evening was climaxed by a talk by Mrs. Pallesen on "Stewardship" emphasizing "The everyday things I do for others; my responsibility to God."

World Mission Service

Sat. June 21st, 8 p.m.

Dr. E. F. Hannemann, A.L.C. former missionary to New Guinea, spoke at the World Mission service.

Our missionaries were presented: Pastor and Mrs. Peter Mathiasen called by the Board of Foreign Missions to the mission field in Brazil, South America; Pastor and Mrs. Lyle Kohler to the Sudan mission field in Africa; and Miss Ilean Rohe registered nurse from Kenmare, North Dakota, home on her first furlough from Sudan.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Wahlgren from the Sudan field and Pastor and Mrs. Paul Johnsen from Japan were also in our midst during the convention days.

AN ITEM OF INTEREST TO THE W.M.S.

The Synodical Convention "Moved and seconded and carried that the evening of the day of the annual convention devoted to the Women's Missionary Society be given to the Board of Foreign Missions."

EDITORIALS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 3)

"We, as Christians, witness not only to the fact that by God's creation He made of 'one blood' all nations, but that also through Jesus Christ and His redemption men of every race, kindred, tongue, and blood are united as one in His Church. We also witness to the fact that 'being a brother in Christ' has social implications, for we can only demonstrate our 'brotherliness' in everyday life situations."

Confessing "our own guilt in the perpetuation of segregation by our self-love and self-concern rather than our true concern for others," the clergymen added:

"We, therefore resolve before God and one another, that we will confront the Church with its challenge to abide under God's will."

The clergymen said that they oppose all attempts to circumvent the law by using church facilities for private schools.

In conclusion, they called upon the civil authorities of the state of Virginia "to work with all deliberate speed to put an end to this practice of enforced segregation, in accordance with the action of the Supreme Court."

A spokesman for the group said the statement was issued "to put us on the record, to avoid any misunderstanding of our attitudes due to silence on our part, to exert leadership in this explosive matter, and to confront the people of this county with the necessity of making decisions in the light of God's will."

He said the ministers and priests who signed the statement had been meeting together for several months out of a common concern over recent developments in the field of human relations.

1958 Parish Education Month

Come Into Our Home, Lord Jesus!

The all-important place of the home in Christian education is expressed in the theme for our 1958 Parish Month emphasis (usually September),—COME INTO OUR HOME, LORD JESUS. As we study the titles of the tracts prepared to bring out this emphasis, we see that they deal definitely with the home as a most vital and important place in Christian education:

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As We Study the Bible Together	\$1.25 per hundred
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As We Face The World Together	\$1.25 per hundred
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(5858L) Service Folder	\$2.00 per hundred
(858) Rally Day Card	25¢ a dozen, \$1.50 per hundred
(1021) Souvenir Tags	25¢ per dozen, \$1.50 per hundred
(525) Metal Buttons	30¢ per dozen, \$2.25 per hundred

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Also available is a four-color post card with the same illustration as folder.

No. 5858-L Folder \$2.00 per hundred

No. 858 Post Card 25¢ per dozen, \$1.50 per hundred

YEARBOOK FOR 1958

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The 1958 Synodical Yearbook of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church is now ready. Within its pages you will find a complete report of the proceedings of the annual convention at Blair, Nebraska, reports from the various organizations of the Church, statistics from the churches as well as a complete directory. This has been a significant year for the Church and every interested church member or worker should have a copy of the Yearbook for ready reference.

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